

FINAL

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 4, 2013, 6:30 pm**  
Van Nuys Golf Course, Billingsley Room  
6550 Odessa Ave. – Lake Balboa, California 91406

**1. Meeting called to order by Cynthia Weichelt, President, at 7:02pm.**

There were 43 people in attendance.

**Roll Call**

Linda Schwering	Residential Rep, Treasurer	P
Cynthia Weichelt	Residential Rep., President	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Linda Pruet	Residential Rep., EP Committee Chair	P
Allen Nelson	Residential Rep., Communications Officer	P
Brian Tessier	Residential Rep., General Outreach Chair	Late, arrived 7:04p
Linda Gravani	Business Rep., 2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.	P
Clay McFarland	Business Rep., 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.	P
Mike Rosá	Business Rep., Business Chair	P
Steve Leffert	Organizational Rep., P. & L.U. Chair	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational Rep.	P
Bethany Harris	Organizational Rep., Secretary	Excused
Carl Schwering	Senior Rep.	Excused
Christopher Bower	Youth Rep.	Excused
Patricia Davidovich	At-Large Elected Rep.	Excused
Leslie (Leela) Woods	At-Large Appointed Rep.	Excused
Roxan Hartstein	At-Large Appointed Rep.	Late, arrived 7:43p

**2. ADOPTED Agenda by unanimous vote** - Linda Pruet brought a motion to approve the agenda for the September 4, 2013 meeting, seconded by Linda Gravani. Vote (8-0-1). Motion passes.

**3. APPROVED Minutes of the August 7, 2013 meeting** - Linda Gravani brought a motion to approve the August 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Linda Pruet. Vote (8-0-1). Motion passes.

**4. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives, Board Members, Committees**

**A. Lynda Levitan, Field Deputy, CD 6, Council Member Nury Martinez' Office (818) 778-4999**

- 1) Sept. 7 is Council Member Martinez' swearing in, Japanese Garden opens at 4pm
- 2) Representative Tony Cárdenas presents "Health Care Reform 101" on Sept. 14, 10am-noon, at Panorama High School, 8015 Van Nuys Blvd
- 3) Office Hours at Van Nuys City Hall: Council Member Martinez will have 30 minute appointments. Call to schedule.
- 4) 311 Smartphone App: one call to City Hall to report graffiti, bulky item pickup, etc. One can also take a photo and send that in.
- 5) Graffiti Removal by West Valley Alliance anywhere west of I-405: 818-885-8885

- B. **Greg Bartz, LADWP Neighborhood Council (NC) Liaison** (there are 3 liaisons for 95 NCs) 213-250-7357 or Greg.Bartz@LADWP.com - he was here one year ago
- 1) The Information packet he gave each boardmember gives a good idea of other important initiatives going on in the department to improve service.
  - 2) LA Aqueduct Centennial Events - morning of Nov. 5 at Sylmar Cascades Facility
  - 3) Jill Barad, Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Chair, was appointed by Mayor Garcetti to the DWP Board. This is a big change. There is one holdover on the Board, the rest are new members.
  - 4) Congress of Neighborhood Councils Sept. 28 - Please participate in DWP's workshops, one short and one long, one can find out about the upcoming, large infrastructure projects in the North and East Valley.
  - 5) Change in the computer program for the Customer Information System. The new computer system will handle workforce management, field assignment. If you have a problem with a customer service issue, contact him.
  - 6) New contract for DWP employees to be voted on soon; work rules to be discussed further.
  - 7) SoCal Turf Removal Rebate - increased to up to \$2/square foot with limit of 2000 sq. ft. or \$4000.00. He did his own yard.
  - 8) Energy Efficiency Programs' budget increased to \$60 million, much of this directed to small business.
  - 9) Speakers Bureau - 35 subject matter experts available for exhibits or presentations. Someone could come speak on fracking at a future LBNC meeting.
- C. **Linda Pruett, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair** -
- 1) **September is Emergency Preparedness Month** - update your kits and supplies to last for a minimum of 3 days, take a CERT or CPR class, update out-of-state contact.
  - 2) **Friday, Sept. 6, 7pm EP Subcommittee** meeting at the Fly Away concerning bin opening
  - 3) **Saturday, Sept. 14, 9am EP meeting at Fly Away Bus Terminal, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Councilmember Nury Martinez** will be there and Denise Edwards will speak about CERTIII class she teaches.
  - 4) **Monday, Sept. 16, 5:30-7pm Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** information session at Assemblymen Adrin Nazarian's office, 6150 Van Nuys Blvd - Capt. Stacy Gerlich will be there with information on upcoming classes.
  - 5) She and Brian Tessier will meet with Martinez this Monday.
  - 6) **Saturday, Sept. 28 NC Congress** at downtown City Hall- she will speaking about EP
  - 7) **Emergency Preparedness Fair Saturday, Oct.5, 10am-2pm** at Firestation 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd, just south of Devonshire, on east side of street, park free behind shopping center next door. 500 EP starter kits will be given out with leather gloves, goggles, cold packs, breathing devices, etc. Eat a free hot dog, hamburger or turkey chili, experience the Shakey Quakey Schoolhouse, puppet show, video game bus, raffle and door prizes.
  - 8) **Thursday, October 17, 10:17am Big Shakeout** Join millions of people as they practice earthquake safety and **Drop, Cover and Hold On** wherever you are.
- D. **Allen Nelson, Communications Officer**
- 1) **Monday, Sept. 23 at 7pm Stagg Street School Area Neighborhood Watch meeting has the topic: "What you need to know about Covered California & the Affordable Care Act,"** hosted by Assemblymember Nazarian's office in Stagg's auditorium.
  - 2) **Mural Update** - waiting for the temperature to drop below 90 degrees before beginning

E. **Linda Gravani 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.**

**1) Community Impact Statement (CIS) procedure-** she gave a handbook for each boardmember on the committee and one for the master file

**2) Election 2014 for NCs-** She is Election Committee Chair; LBNC is in Region 3; takes place in March, April or May. We know more now, so 75-80% of effort will be for Outreach, we will all need to go door knocking to solicit email addresses to be able to survey stakeholders. Volunteers needed.

F. **Mike Rosá - Business Committee Chair**

**1) August 9 Business Outreach** Committee meeting held at Lulu's; discussed plans for the campaign "Spend \$25 on the 25<sup>th</sup>"

**2) 8/25 outreach at Ralphs** was great. We talked to many business owners and stakeholders.

**3) September 25** we will be at Vallarta market on Victory from 12-5pm. We have one Spanish translator, but we could use more.

**5. Public Comment** - Comments from Public on non-agenda items, issues and announcements and complaints within the jurisdiction of the Lake Balboa NC.

**A. Oscar Ortega** - wanted to know what's happening with the pot dispensaries; concerned about youth in car between 6 & 8pm on Texhoma and Enadia streets smoking pot, drinking beer and driving afterwards where little children are playing on Shoshone Street

**B. Lorna Paisley** - concerned that street sweeper not seen on 6900 block of Balboa Blvd where it is badly needed due to water from sprinklers, weeds and mud; garbage cans overflowing on Vanowen

**C. Glenn Bailey - LANCC meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.** LBNC should have a regular representative attend. Mayor Garcetti has agreed to come to the October or November meeting; Congress of Neighborhood Councils registration is now open, register now for best choice of workshops; Budget Advocates- 2 reps from LBNC need to be sent to Budget Day, which will be in October; NC Elections - Region 3 (Southeast Valley,ours) will be in March, applications are being taken for IEAs, poll workers and volunteers; an ordinance to transfer NC Elections to DONE from City Clerk is in progress

**D. Torr Leonard** - He received a call from the Mayor's office regarding closing of pot dispensaries, showing that if you pester the Mayor on Twitter you will get a response

**E. Justin Bonney** - there is a gang problem at Vanowen & Hartland, so he is going to collect signatures in favor of light poles; mistake in Draft 3 of Aug. 2013 minutes which has P. Davidovich seconding motion to adjourn when she was not in attendance.

**6. Lacrosse:** Scott Harmon from the US Lacrosse Association presented reasons why the #14 practice field adjacent to the Balboa Sports Center should be converted into a lacrosse field among the reasons being: It is a big sport for girls and women who are underserved in sports. One elementary school, Calahan, has a pilot program, 4 high schools and 2 middle schools in the San Fernando Valley have teams. His project is in beginning stages. Glenn Bailey commented that the understanding of Rec & Parks was to use field as picnic area, since it is a buffer area for the LA River. Plans now are to move bike path further to the north and along the river, which would take it through field in question. His suggestion is to change proposed field to former baseball field on Victory at Louise next to the National Guard Armory.

**MOTION PASSED:** Allen Nelson made the motion for the LBNC to issue a letter of support for the concept of a lacrosse field in the Sepulveda Basin area, seconded by Linda Pruett. Vote (10-0-1).

**7. Habitat Restoration Proposal - Kris Ohlenkamp of the SFV Audubon Society** - 48 acres of mostly native vegetation and habitat were destroyed. They have met 5 times with Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and gotten no where on plan for restoration. A new colonel is starting next week, so he hopes more will be accomplished with new personnel. The Bureau of Sanitation was mandated by the LA City Council to investigate legal measures. The proposed plan by SFV Audubon and Bureau of Sanitation is a revision of the 1980 ACOE plan, which called for a 3 acre lake, 7 acre marsh with recycled water coming from Haskell Creek. ACOE's response was that the plan was environmentally bad even though it would increase access for enforcement, increase trail system for users, which would mean more community members present and crime would then lessen, all conditions they said proposal should satisfy.

**MOTION PASSED:** Ruth Doxsee brought the motion that the LBNC Board support the Habitat Restoration Proposal as developed by the SFV Audubon Society for the area South of Burbank Blvd by submission of a letter to the Bureau of Sanitation and Congressman Brad Sherman and a CIS to the Los Angeles City Council. Linda Pruett seconded. Vote (10-0-1.) Motion passes.

**8. Architectural Sign: "Welcome to Lake Balboa"**

Roxan Hartstein showed 2 versions (A & B) of the proposed "Welcome to Lake Balboa" sign intended for Haskell Ave. near Haynes St. with varying fonts and board members registered preferences, the most being for version B. The sign will have a graffiti resistant clear coat and be set on a stone base with landscaping surrounding it. The template will be used in order to obtain pricing bids for future use as the budget allows.

**9. Food & Water Watch** - Representative Alexandra Nagy of this nonprofit consumer advocacy group raised first issue of "fracking" (hydraulic fracturing) in California, specifically LA County at Inglewood Oil Field in Baldwin Hills. Millions of gallons of a mix of water, toxic chemicals and sand are pumped into wells and toxic elements may leak into groundwater. Council members Koretz and Bonin have introduced a motion for a moratorium on fracking in City of LA.

**MOTION PASSED:** Linda Gravani brought the motion:

Whereas modern drilling and fracking may be an engineering marvel, it results in millions of gallons of toxic wastewater and thousands of tons of solid waste for each new well. It causes serious air pollution problems and creates short and long term risks to drinking water resources. Therefore the LBNC Board moves that all fracking in California be banned. Seconded by Linda Pruett. Vote (9-0-2). Motion passes.

Second issue: Bay Delta Conservation Plan by Governor Brown, no action taken.

See [foodandwaterwatch.org](http://foodandwaterwatch.org) for more information

**11. LA Safe Routes to School** - Dru Van Hengel has been contracted by LA DOT Pedestrian Program to promote citywide **WALK to SCHOOL DAY Wednesday, WALKTOBER 9 to increase activity and safety.** Seeking local based "champions" to host events, please contact her. 503-230-9862, 503-200-3249 or [druvanhengel@altaplanning.com](mailto:druvanhengel@altaplanning.com) You will get assistance in planning, volunteer training and give-away incentives.

**12. Mural Ordinance -**

**MOTION PASSED:** Linda Gravani brought the motion:

Whereas CF #11-0923 will allow each Neighborhood to determine if they will allow murals on single family residences, LBNC has voted not to allow murals on Single Family Residences. Seconded by Mike Rosá. Vote (10-0-1).

**13. RECEIVED Treasurer Report - Review and request** for approval of the August 2013 Expenditure Report that includes the August P-card Reconciliation was made by Linda Schwering, seconded by Steve Leffert. Vote (10-0-1). **Motion passed.**

Treasurer is anticipating new funding program to begin in October 2013.

**14. Meeting Location:**

The ad-hoc committee charged with finding a new location for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council meetings, has found the auditorium at Gault Elementary to be the best suited for the Council's needs and requirements.

**MOTION PASSED:** The ad-hoc committee chair, Mike Rosá, made a motion to move our regular meetings (as well as storage) currently held at the Billingsley Room located at the Van Nuys Golf Course at 6550 Odessa Avenue, Lake Balboa, CA 91406, to Gault Elementary located at 17000 Gault Street, Lake Balboa, CA 91406 and to allocate up to \$200.00 per month for 10 months. Roxan Hartstein seconded. Vote (9-0-2). Motion passes.

**15. Public Address (PA) System:** Roxan Hartstein presented a funding request in the amount of \$600.00 for purchase of a complete PA system from vendor Rosalie Schulman for use at NC meetings and events. Linda Gravani seconded. Vote (7-3-1). **Motion passed.**

**16. Walk to End Poverty:** Board vote on funding request for \$500 from FY 2013-2014 Budget to direct expenses for the Lutheran Social Services event including water, refreshments and event supplies. **Item tabled** due to confusion about whether a Neighborhood Purposes Grant was needed.

**17. Adjournment:** Linda Pruett brought a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruth Doxsee. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm by unanimous vote.